Energy Management Package for Small Commercial Buildings

Executive Summary

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The goal of this project is to develop packaged Energy Management Systems for small commercial buildings, with sufficiently low transaction costs in terms of both skills and level of effort to meet the needs of target audiences. The primary delivery channel comprises HVAC contractors, who will offer the Energy Management Package as part of their maintenance contracts. In this context, the term 'Energy Management' refers to the use of energy information and continuous improvement principles (Plan, Do, Check, Act) to continually identify efficiency opportunities and maintain energy performance. In recent years, this has been demonstrated fairly well for larger buildings and portfolios, and numerous energy information system (EIS) products are commercially available to support continuous energy management. However, it appears that there has been little if any application to small buildings.

In the 2012-2013 project year, the LBNL team:

- Interviewed 17 stakeholders to identify barriers and opportunities to offer EnMS for small buildings
- Developed an Energy Management Package focused on low- and no-cost, primarily operational measures. The package contains instructions, worksheets and tool lists to guide HVAC contractors through delivering this service
- Developed a business model describing how HVAC contractors can sell and benefit from from the EnMS package
- Began a pilot demonstration of the EnMS package with two partner contractors in two buildings each

In the 2013-2014 project year, the LBNL team will complete the pilot demonstration, disseminate the Energy Management Package and formalized pilot findings, and initiate a regional-scale demonstration project. In the demonstration project, the LBNL team will pursue high-potential deployment collaborators including HVAC training and professional organizations in order to engage contractors. The team will also design and implement a mechanism to track and report demonstration outcomes and then analyze and package findings. The demonstration findings will then be used to seed scaled national deployment of the contractor Energy Management Package.